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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1941.

Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council.

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OGMORE AND GARW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my report upon the vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Ogmore and Garw Urban District for the year 1941.

In accordance with the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health the present report is submitted in a curtailed form, and the information contained therein is mainly statistical.

The estimated population is 25,300 persons; the birth-rate is 18.4 per 1,000 and the general death-rate is 11.7 per 1,000 of the population.

The infantile death-rate is 77 per 1,000 live births; the still-birth rate is 52 per 1,000 total births; the maternal death-rate is 4.2 per 1,000 total birth.

In conclusion I would bring to your notice the continued excellent work performed throughout the year by the staff of the department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. A. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

NAME.	QUALIFICATIONS.	OFFICE.	WHOLE OR PART TIME.	Contributions to Salary	
				Under P.H. Acts	By Exchq. Grants
W. A. Murphy	M.B., B.Ch., N.U.I., D.P.H. (Camb.).	Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent Isolation Hosp.	Whole Time	x	
Amy L. Jagger ...	M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., Wales; M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.	Asst. M.O., Ante-natal Clinics	Part Time		x
Sybil Morgan	B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	M.O., Birth Control Clinic	Part Time		
R. G. Maliphant ...	M.D. (Lond.), M R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.C.O.G.	Consultant Obstetrician ...	Part Time		x
J Rees	Sanitary Inspector's Cert. ; Meat Inspector's Cert.	Senior Sanitary Inspector ...	Whole Time	x	
O. L. Thomas	Sanitary Inspector's Cert., Meat Inspector's Cert.	Sanitary Inspector ...	Whole Time	x	
Miss M. M. Davies ...	General Trained and Certificated Hospital Nurse. Fever Training.	Matron, Isolation Hospital	Whole Time	x	
Miss E. A. Thomas ...	General Trained and Certificated Hospital Nurse. C.M.B. Certificate.	Health Visitor	Whole Time		x
Miss L. M. Thomas ...	General Trained and Certificated Hospital Nurse. C.M.B. Certificate.	Health Visitor	Whole Time		x
Miss M. Major ...	General Trained and Certificated Hospital Nurse. C.M.B. Certificate. H.V. Certificate.	Health Visitor	Whole time		x
Miss A. Poelde ...	C.S.M.M.B. B.P.A.	Ultra Violet Ray Therapist	Part Time		
*Mrs. M. Liedtke ...	...	Welfare Officer	Whole Time		x
*Miss J. S. Jones ...	Higher Cert. Nat. Froebel Union. Board of Education Teacher's Cert.	Wartime Nursery Superintendent	Whole Time		x
*Mrs. G. Burdon ...	Uncertificated Teacher ...	Wartime Nursery Warden ...	Whole Time		x
L Rees	...	Junior Clerk...	Whole Time		
M. Lewis	...	Clerk	Whole Time		

*For portion of year

I.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—Acres	17,984
Estimated population, 1941	25,300
Number of inhabited houses, 1941 (estimated) ...	5,472
Rateable value—Before de-rating	£96,843
,, ,, After de-rating	£72,979
Sum represented by a penny rate	£267

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF 1941.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	454	244	210	Birth-rate...18.4
	Illegitimate ...	11	3	8	
					Rate per 1,000
Stillbirths		25	12	13	total births... 52
Deaths		296	167	129	Death-rate... 11.7

			Rate per 1,000 total Births
Deaths from puerperal causes	Puerperal sepsis ...	1	2.1
	Other puerperal causes	1	2.1
	Total	2	4.2

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	80
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping-cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	3
,, ,, Cerebro-spinal Fever (all ages)	6

II.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

An additional infant Welfare Centre was opened at Llangeinor during the year. Sessions are held fortnightly, with medical sessions monthly.

A War-time Nursery was opened at Evanstown in September, 1941. The provision of nurseries at Pontycymmer and Ogmore Vale has been approved.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During 1941, 224 patients, amongst whom 15 deaths occurred, were admitted to Blackmill Isolation Hospital.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1941 :—

(*a*) To expectant mothers—

(1) First visits, 275 ; (2) Revisits, 510 ; (3) Total visits 785.

(b) To children under one year of age—

(1) First visits, 545 ; (2) Revisits, 896 ; (3) Total visits, 1,441.

(*c*) To children 1 to 5 years.	Total visits	3,288
	Orthopaedic visits	151
	Ophthalmia visits	8
	Tuberculosis visits	530
	Miscellaneous visits and enquiries	233

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

There are eight children in the district adopted for reward to whom regular visits were paid by the Health Visitors during the year.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

121 maternity cases were admitted to the Mid-Glamorgan County Hospital, Bridgend, under the Council's auspices during 1941.

III.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

No developments in the drainage and sewerage of the area occurred during the year. Chlorination plants for the protection of water supplies derived from upland surface sources were installed at various points in the area by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board during 1941.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year were as follows :—

Inspections under the Housing Acts...	18
,, ,, ,, Public Health Acts ...	2006
Revisits to premises under repair	1460
Investigations and visits in cases of infectious disease	431
Inspections of slaughter-houses and slaughtering ...	814
Bakehouses	85
Cinemas	106
Ice-cream vendors' premises...	—
Schools and public buildings	417
Workshops	252
Butchers' shops	203
Special complaints investigated	573
Drains tested and relaid	153
Premises disinfected	159
Samples of water collected for analysis	26
,, ,, milk collected for bacteriological examination	76
,, ,, milk tested for sediment	93

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following table sets out the number and classification of Factories in the district :—

A. Factories where Mechanical Power is employed.

Printing Works	3
Bakehouses	11
Boot Repairs	9
Electricity	2
Mortar Mills	1
Pasteurising Plant	1

B. Factories where no Mechanical Power is employed.

Boot Repairs	7
Dressmaking	8
Carpentry	11
Tailoring	2
Bakehouses	3
Smithies	3
Watchmakers	4
Garages	2
Plumbers	2

IV.—Housing.

No new houses were erected in the district during 1941 either by the Local Authority or by private enterprise : all the 210 houses owned by the District Council were in occupation on 31st December. There has been some delay in the execution of housing repairs owing to difficulty in obtaining supplies of building materials.

Cases of overcrowding were brought to notice from time to time during the year : these were difficult to remedy since the available accommodation in the area was fully taxed consequent on the transfer to the district of persons from other areas.

Serious consideration will have to be given to the damage caused by ground subsidence to house property at Pontycymmer. Many houses are becoming unfit for human habitation as a result of this ground movement which is proceeding at a rapid rate, particularly in the Braichycymmer area on the west side of Pontycymmer.

The following table summarises the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year in so far as their housing duties are concerned :—

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1.—Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects and the number of inspections made	1,607 and 2,618
(2) Total number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations....	18
(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	709

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 362

3.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

(1) Proceedings under Housing Acts :—

(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(*b*) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 2

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 2

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(*a*) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 172

(*b*) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied 193

3.—Demolition Orders :—

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

Number of houses demolished 0

Number of houses closed but not demolishcd 2

V.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Routine inspections of farms and dairies were carried out during the year and samples of graded and ungraded milk were sent at regular intervals for bacteriological examination. The premises licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders were regularly inspected and supervised. It is regretted to report that there is a distinct falling off in the methods of milk production since the outbreak of war.

MEAT.

The work of meat inspection has been greatly facilitated by the centralisation of slaughtcring in two of the district slaughter-houses, and it will be definitely a retrograde step if the system of privately owned slaughter-houses is reverted to after the war.

The following table sets out the amount of meat seized, condemned and disposed of as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	335	209	144	7246	374
Number inspected	328	187	139	6471	348
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	0	0	0	5	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	76	51	0	416	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	23%	27%	...	6.6%	0.9%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	4	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	26	53	...	...	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.5	30	...	...	1.7

OTHER FOODS.

Unsound food condemned :—

Potatoes, 83 cwt ; eggs, 122; sausages, 96 lbs.; apples, 16 lbs.; fish 7¾ lbs.; assorted tinned goods 15 tins.

VI.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1941.

Disease	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	85	56	...
Diphtheria	93	93	2
Enteric Fever	2	2	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	1	1	...
Pneumonia	104	5	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	20	18	6
Erysipelas	10	...	...
Measles	687	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	212	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The work of diphtheria immunisation was continued in the district during 1941. The antigen used was alum-precipitated toxoid, supplied by the Welsh Board of Health free of charge, in two injections, of which the first was 0.1 c.c. and the second was 0.3 c.c., with one month's interval between the injections. A number of children over 5 years were pre-Schick tested, but the majority of the children were immunised without pre-Schick testing, irrespective of age. The following table sets out the number and ages of the children immunised :—

A.P.T.

No. of children immunised under 5 years	322
" " " between 5 and 15 years	899
No. of children not completing course :—	
Under 5 years	11
Between 5 and 15 years	10

PRE-SCHICK TEST.

No. of children between 5 and 15 years pre-Schick tested ...	230
" " " " pre-Schick negative	213
" " " " pre-Schick positive	17

(Immunised included above.)

DIPHTHERIA IN IMMUNISHED CHILDREN.

Case No.	Pre-Schick Test	Dates of Immunisation	Post-Schick Test	Type of Disease
1	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 18/10/35 20/11/33	Pos. 8/11/37	Mild
2	Nil	T.A.M. (3) 29/11/33, 11/12/33	Neg. 19/11/34	Mild
3	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 28/9/35	Neg. 12/11/36	Mild
4	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 12/10/36	Pos. 28/4/41	Mild
5	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 19/9/35 8/5/41	Neg. 21/9/36	Mild
6	Nil	T.A.F. (3) 22/5/41, 19/6/41	Nil	Severe
7	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 10/7/36	Neg. 5/12/36	Modly. severe
8	Nil	A.P.T. (2) 22/3/37, 5/4/37	Diphtheria March '38 Nil	Carrier
9	Neg. 3/1/41	—	— Pos. 25/2/37	Mild
10	Nil	A.P.T. (1) 26/5/36 A.P.T. (1) 25/2/37	Neg. 28/2/38	Modly. severe
11	Nil	T.A.F. 28/10/37, 11/11/37 (3) 25/11/37	Nil	Mild

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

This Order was made in November, 1941, but owing to the prevalence of scabies in the district the Council had set up a treatment centre at Pontycymmer on 27th October. With the consent of the Glamorgan County Council the Cleansing Section of the Fixed First Aid Post was used for this purpose.

The trained nurse attached to the Post has volunteered her services for the work and she is assisted when necessary by male and female auxiliary nurses paid on a sessional basis.

The sarcopticide employed is Benzyl Benzoate emulsion and the method of treatment is as follows :—

First day—Cleansing bath and application of Benzyl Benzoate.

Second day—Cleansing bath ; dress in clean underclothing and outer clothing (where possible) ; steam disinfection of discarded clothing.

(The steam disinfection of blankets and bedding has not been carried out).

Patients from other parts of the district are conveyed to and from Pontycymmer for treatment.

The local medical practitioners have been informed of the provision made by the Council and send informal notifications of cases requiring treatment. The home is then visited by the sanitary inspector concerned and any contacts with suspicious symptoms are directed to the centre for diagnosis and treatment if necessary. The results of treatment have been reasonably satisfactory : 96 cases were treated between 27th October and 31st December, and, of these, 7 cases required an additional course of treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	2
15—20	4	1	1	1	2	—	1	1
20—25	3	4	1	—	—	2	1	1
25—35	4	7	—	2	2	3	—	—
35—45	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	1
55—65	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	20	16	6	9	9	6	3	5

NOTIFICATION of TUBERCULOSIS.—Of the 23 fatal cases, 3 had not been notified to me before death.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 ; Public Health Act, 1936. Section 172.—No action taken or required.

GLAMORGAN VITAL STATISTICS. URBAN DISTRICTS, 1941

District	*Birth-rate*	*Death-rate*	*Infantile Death-rate (per 1,000 live-births)*
England and Wales	14.2	12.9	59
148 Smaller Towns	16.4	13.0	56
Aberdare	15.2	15.0	61
Barry Borough	18.2	13.0	43
Bridgend	18.0	12.1	56
Caerphilly	21.0	14.9	83
Cowbridge Borough	6.8	15.1	222
Gelligaer	19.7	11.8	79
Glyncorrwg	21.7	10.4	58
Llwchwr	14.3	12.8	36
Maesteg	18.2	13.3	79
Mountain Ash	17.0	13.2	65
Neath Borough	14.0	14.0	82
Ogmore and Garw	18.4	11.7	77
Penarth	14.6	15.3	48
Pontypridd	17.9	14.3	74
Porthcawl	13.2	13.5	44
Port Talbot Borough	16.5	11.8	53
Rhondda	15.8	15.1	80

The above table is supplied by the courtesy of Dr. E. Colston Williams, County Medical Officer.

Causes of Death in Ogmore and Garw U.D., 1941.

(Registrar General).

	Disease.	No. of Deaths M.	F.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	1	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	2
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	1	—
5	Diphtheria	1	1
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	9	6
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	3	5
8	Syphilitic diseases	1	—
9	Influenza	2	2
10	Measles	—	—
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	—	—
12	Acute Inf. encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	4	2
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	3
15	Cancer of breast	—	4
16	Cancer of all other sites	6	4
17	Diabetes	—	2
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	6	9
19	Heart disease	40	29
20	Other disease of circulatory system ...	2	2
21	Bronchitis	15	7
22	Pneumonia	11	8
23	Other respiratory diseases	5	—
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	2
26	Appendicitis	1	—
27	Other digestive diseases	0	7
28	Nephritis	5	2
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ...	—	1
30	Other maternal causes	—	1
31	Premature birth	10	4
32	Congenital malformation, etc.	3	2
33	Suicide	1	2
34	Road traffic accidents	2	—
35	Other violent causes	10	1
36	All other causes	19	20
	Totals	167	129
		296	

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